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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6666
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 00901

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, AU, GE, GW
SUBJECT: GDR-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS: CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S
- VISIT

1. NEWLY-ARRIVED AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR WALSER
INFORMED ME FEBRUARY 6 DURING A COURTESY CALL THAT CHAN-
CELLOR KREISKY WILL MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE GDR ON
MARCH 30-APRIL 1.

2. ACCORDING TO WALSER, THE CENTRAL PURPOSE OF THE VISIT
IS TO DEEPEN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE GDR AND CONTRI-
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BUTE TO THE DETENTE PROCESS IN CENTRAL EUROIE. WALSER SAID
THERE WOULD BE NO PROFOUND POLITICAL PRONOUNCEMENTS BUT HE
EXPECTED THE VISIT TO ADVANCE PRACTICAL COOPERATION IN SUCH
AREAS AS CULTURAL EXCHANGES, VETERINARY MATTERS AND SCIEN-
TIFIC AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES.

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3. WALSER WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THE RATIONALE UNDERLYING THE KREISKY VISIT AS WELL AS THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN POLICY APPROACH TOWARD THE GDR. IN AUSTRIA'S VIEW, SED CHAIRMAN HONECKER AND OTHER SED LEADERS HAVE A FEELING OF INFERIORITY, ISOLATION AND FEAR WHICH COULD BE DANGEROUS. WALSER ADDED THAT THE GDR FEELS UNDER PRESSURE FROM BOTH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE FRG. THE REGIME TENDS TO REACT IN A VERY STRONG AND DEFENSIVE MANNER TO WHAT IT PERCEIVES AS AGRESSIVE ACTION, ESPECIALLY FROM THE FRG. WALSER SAW THE GDR OVER-REACTION TO THE RECENT PUBLICATION OF THE SO-CALLED "MANIFESTO" IN SPIEGEL AS A CASE IN POINT.

4. ACCORDING TO WALSER, KREISKY FEELS THAT THE GDR WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACT A BIT MORE INDEPENDENTLY OF MOSCOW AND MODERATE ITS BEHAVIOR IN CENTRAL EUROPE IF THE REGIME'S FEELING OF ISOLATION AND FEAR COULD BE EASED. AUSTRIA HOPES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS PROCESS OF MAKING THE REGIME FEEL MORE SECURE AND INDEPENDENT AND THUS CONTRIBUTE TO THE DETENTE PROCESS IN THIS PART OF EUROPE. HE THOUGHT THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT IN ANY WAY IMPAIRING AUSTRIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE FRG. BOLEN

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
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